

McKinney-Vento: Hot Topics and Key Issues 2010

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National Center for Homeless Education
Diana Bowman, Director

Ph: 336-315-7453

E-mail: dbowman@serve.org



How many children experience homelessness?

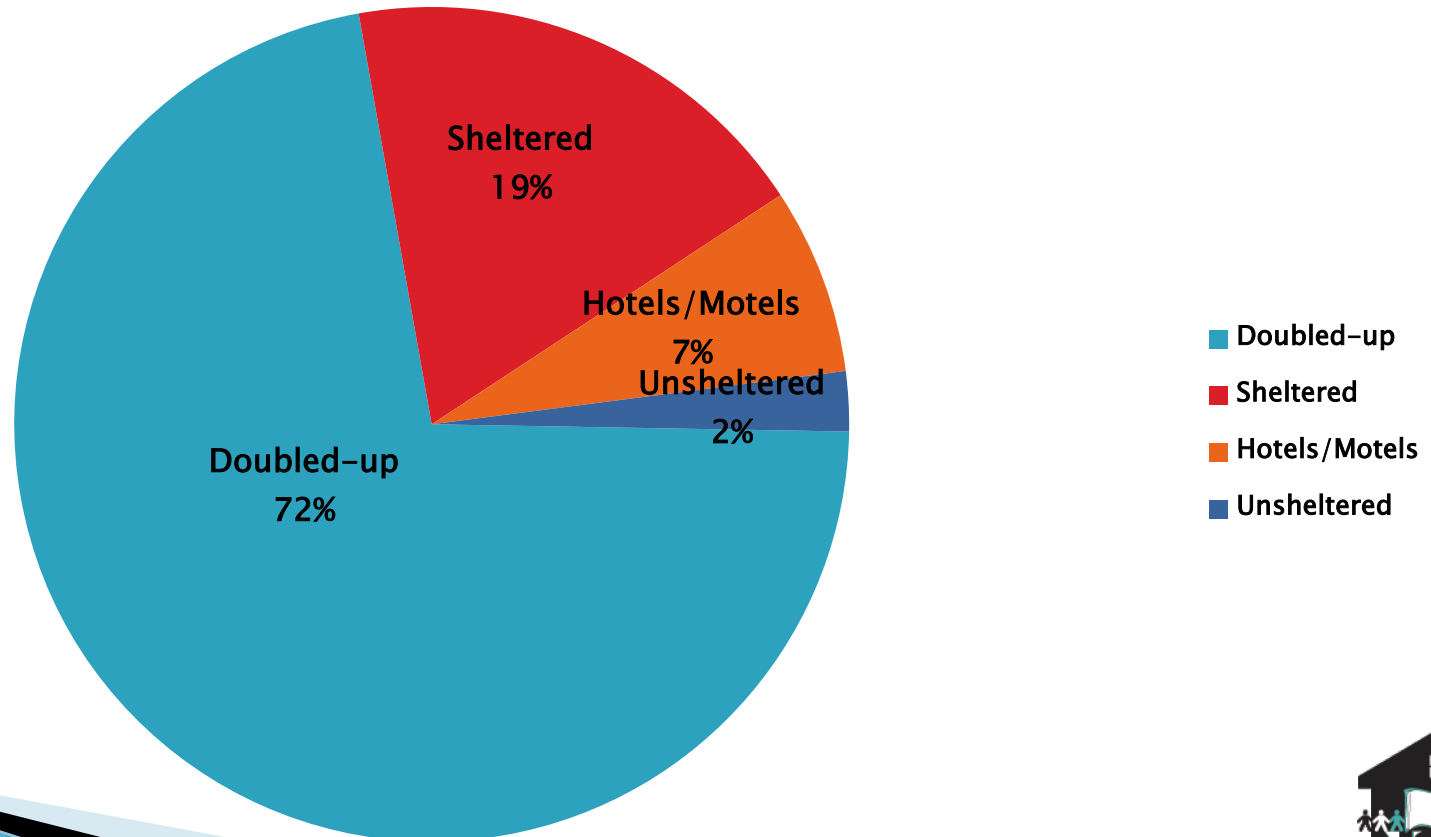
- ▶ 10% of all children living in poverty (Urban Institute)
- ▶ 1 in 50 children will experience homelessness (NCFH)
- ▶ Over 40% of all children who are homeless are under the age of 5
- ▶ Over 956,000 reported enrolled in school 2008–2009 (41% increase over three years)

A Few State Numbers for 2008–2009 (CSPR Data)

- ▶ **Tennessee – 9,836**
- ▶ Kentucky – 22,626
- ▶ Ohio – 16,059
- ▶ North Carolina – 18,693
- ▶ Virginia – 12,768

Where do homeless children live in Tennessee?

Tennessee Primary Nighttime Residence by Category SY
2008-09



National Center for Homeless Education – www.serve.org/nche

The first step is identification ...

- ▶ Outreach is key – posters, key contacts (schools, shelters, hotels, motels, campgrounds, churches, social services, law enforcement, food banks, medical clinics, laundromats)
- ▶ Make schools welcoming environments
- ▶ School staff awareness
- ▶ Residency enrollment form
- ▶ School district parent handbook
- ▶ Data collection – see where children come from
 - ▶ *Posters available from NCHE – free in limited quantities*

Determining Eligibility – Who is Covered?

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals

Who is Covered? (cont.)

- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth who are experiencing the above circumstances

Stumpers



- ▶ When is doubled up not homeless?
 - Why did the family move in together? Crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit?
 - How permanent is the living arrangement meant to be?
 - Where would the family live if not doubling up?
 - Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?
- ▶ Is there time limit on how long a family is considered homeless?
 - Duration of homelessness varies greatly
 - Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?

NCHE's Determining Eligibility Brief:
http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf

Determining Eligibility

- ▶ Obtain information
- ▶ Analyze against the definition
 - Does the living situation fit one of the examples?
 - Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?
- ▶ Seek assistance (State Coordinator, NCHE, colleagues)
- ▶ Guiding principle: case-by-case determination

MV on School Selection – Where can homeless children attend school?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness can, according to their **best interest**:

- ▶ enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend
- ▶ stay in their **school of origin**

School of origin — school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled

Best interest — keep homeless students in their school of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes

Feasibility — USDE Sample Criteria

- ▶ Continuity of instruction
- ▶ Age of the child or youth
- ▶ Safety of the child or youth
- ▶ Length of stay at the shelter
- ▶ Likely area where family will find permanent housing
- ▶ Student's need for special instructional programs
- ▶ Impact of commute on education
- ▶ School placement of siblings
- ▶ Time remaining in the school year



2004 Non-Regulatory Guidance, p. 14

Peer-to-Peer



Last December, the Marquez family lost its housing due to a fire and moved in with friends. Over the summer, the father's brother let the family move into a finished room over his garage. The brother lives in the district adjoining the district where the school of origin is located. The parents want their sons, Juan and Pedro, to continue in their school of origin.

- ▶ Are the boys eligible under MV?
- ▶ Should the boys continue in their school of origin?
- ▶ What additional information do you need?

MV on Transportation

- ▶ LEAs must provide homeless students with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth)

Transportation FAQs

- ▶ Is there a time or distance limit on transportation to the school of origin?
- ▶ Can Title I, Part A funds be used for transportation to the school of origin?

Enrollment



- ▶ Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents, such as school or medical records, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, or other documents
- ▶ If a student does not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the liaison must assist in obtaining them, and the student must be enrolled in the interim
- ▶ Federal law supersedes state and local laws where there is a conflict [U.S. Constitution, Article VI]

The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

Homeless Unaccompanied Youth

Definition: a youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

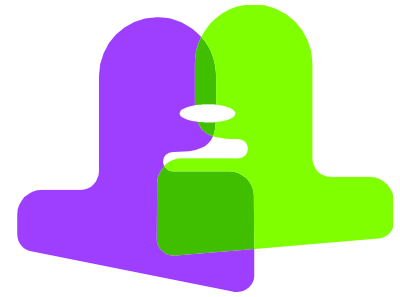


Stumpers



- ▶ Are all unaccompanied youth considered homeless?
- ▶ Even youth who chose to leave their home?
 - Is the youth living in a situation that is not fixed, regular, and adequate?
 - Focus on the living situation, not the cause.
 - In many cases, there's more than meets the eye to the youth's situation at home.

Peer to Peer



Chris, a sixteen-year-old, has just come to your school to enroll. He said he left home because he can't get along with his stepfather and is staying with a friend. His mother says he has a perfectly good home and the school should not enroll him.

- ▶ Should you enroll him?
- ▶ How should schools help unaccompanied homeless youth? Educational needs? Beyond education?

Access to Higher Education

- ▶ Homeless youth may be designated as Independent Students in order to apply for federal financial aid without parental information (Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007)
 - Verification
 - Local Liaisons
 - RHYA Shelter Providers
 - Third Parties
 - Financial Aid Administrators – must use MV definition
- ▶ Fee waivers for ACT



Summary of Homeless Access Provisions:
www.naehcy.org/dl/avg1011summary.doc

Collaboration with Head Start

- ▶ Head Start legislation requires that homeless children are prioritized for enrollment
 - Contact the Head Start program in your community and discuss joint trainings, sharing of forms and data, serving on each other's policy committees
 - Assist Head Start programs with understanding the definition and challenges of homelessness
 - Share resources (transportation, ELL, community awareness initiatives)



Collaboration with HUD

- US Interagency Council on Homelessness
- September 20, 2010: HUD issued its 2010 Notice of Funding Availability (*NOFA*)
- Press release on new NOFA:
http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-197
- The new NOFA includes specific provisions requiring collaboration with school districts



New NOFA Requirements

- ▶ CofC applicant must demonstrate that it is collaborating with local educational agencies to assist in the identification of homeless families and informing homeless families and youth of their eligibility in MV education services
- ▶ CofC applicant must demonstrate that it is considering the educational needs of children when families are placed in emergency or transitional shelter and is, to the maximum extent practicable placing families with children as close as possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt the children's education,

New NOFA Requirements, cont.

- ▶ CofC applicant must demonstrate that its programs are establishing policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney–Vento Act, and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to children and youth experiencing homelessness;
- ▶ CofC applicant must demonstrate that programs that provide housing or services to families are designating a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney– Vento education services.

2009 Continuum of Care Awards:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/budget/2009/index.cfm>

A little on ARRA funds

- ▶ Can be spent on any of the allowable activities in MV Section 723, including
 - Tutoring
 - Professional development
 - After school programs
 - Excess cost of transportation
 - Early childhood programs
 - Unaccompanied youth
 - Coordination
 - School supplies

Funds must be spent by September 30, 2011

ARRA Funds – Innovative Ideas

- ▶ Consultant hired for a student identification project; increase capacity of LEAs that have identified low numbers
- ▶ Production of a Homeless Education documentary
- ▶ Parent/family involvement and engagement among homeless families
- ▶ Engagement of unaccompanied youth in education and/or education-related work programs
- ▶ Establishment of a multi-partner after school program
- ▶ Homeless transportation coordinator hired in a large urban school district

ARRA Funds – Innovative Ideas

- ▶ One district established a clearinghouse/website that is school-friendly and region-focused; “broker” employed to connect families to services re: homeless prevention, emergency housing, transitional housing, etc.
- ▶ Two suburban districts are initiating model programs and documenting what it takes for schools to buy in and provide services

For more information

- ▶ NCHE website: www.serve.org/nche
- ▶ NCHE helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- ▶ Other national organizations:
NAEHCY (www.naehcy.org)
NLCHP (www.nlchp.org)

A Unique Professional Development Opportunity
NAEHCY's 22th Annual Conference
November 6-9, 2010 – Houston, TX
<http://www.naehcy.org>

State Contact Information

James Francis, Ed.D.

615-253-5210, james.francis@tn.gov

Tennessee Department of Education

Chris Satterfield

615-532-4777 chris.satterfield@tn.gov

Tennessee Department of Education